

COMMUNICATIONS

Nuevo León has almost 600,000 telephone lines, of which more than 80 percent are digital. At the end of 1994, telephone density stood at 18.8 lines per 100 inhabitants, which was roughly double the rate for Mexico as a whole. New service is being installed and Monterrey's service levels are steadily improving.

Internet service is available through several local providers. In the past, telephone service has been supplied exclusively by *Teléfonos de México (Telmex)*, the national telephone company. Beginning in late 1996, competing long distance services from private telecommunication providers will be available. This is part of the government's continuing privatization and deregulation of the telecommunication system.

There are 13 television stations and about 64,000 cable television subscribers in Nuevo León. Four local stations create original programming and the others transmit programs produced in Mexico City.

INDUSTRIAL PARKS

Industrial parks are designed to provide businesses with efficient infrastructure and at the same time ensure orderly development. The parks are located in areas that facilitate the transportation of raw materials and products. For many years, industrial parks that met the requirements of the *Secretaría de Comercio y Fomento Industrial (Secofi)*, Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development, and were registered with the government, benefited from significant reductions in taxes and infrastructure costs. But as this system matured, the incentives were reduced. As a result, only 19 percent of Mexico's 309 industrial parks were registered as of April 1996. The three states of northeastern Mexico include 78 industrial parks, as well as 3 industrial corridors. Only 10 of these facilities were registered with *Secofi* as of April 1996.

CONVENTION CENTRE

Monterrey hosted its first industrial exhibition in the late nineteenth century and has since developed into a major trade show centre. The *Centro Internacional de Negocios Monterrey (Cintermex)*, International Business Centre, is the largest convention centre in Latin America. This US \$33 million facility includes 65,000 square metres of display space for both permanent and temporary exhibitions. It provides office space to many large companies as well as to chambers and industry associations.